

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1–16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) A method of manufacturing a valve stem comprising an elongate stem element and a sealing element, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a first mold shape;
- b) molding a first material comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyaryletherketones, thermotropic liquid crystalline polymers, polymethylpentene, polyphenylene sulfide and mixtures thereof to form the elongate stem element;
- c) providing a second mold shape containing at least in part the elongate stem element; and
- d) molding a second material to form the sealing element, such that the sealing element is arranged onto and co-molded with at least a portion of the elongate stem element.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing according to claim 17, wherein the second material comprises a thermoplastic elastomer.

20. (Original) A method of manufacturing according to claims 17, wherein the second material comprises a thermosettable elastomer, and the method further comprises an additional step of:

- c) curing said second material, said step being performed subsequent to step d).

21. (Original) A method of manufacturing according to claim 20, wherein the method further comprises an additional step of:

- f) removing said second mold shape, said step being performed either prior to or subsequent to step e).

22–23 (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing according to claim 21, wherein the method comprises further comprise the additional step of:

- g) thermally treating the sealing element, said step being performed subsequent to both steps e) and f).

25. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing according to claim 17, wherein the step of molding the first material and/or the step of molding the second material is injection molding.

26–32. (Cancelled)